

October 23, 2012

“The people who resist change will be confronted by the growing number of people who see that better ways...are available thanks to technology.” ~ Bill Gates

Friends,

In continuing on with a series of highlights which reflect the perspectives of individuals who are strong advocates for the City of Augusta and for our community as a whole, this week I'd like to share with you the words of Monty Hamilton. I met Monty, the CEO of Rural Sourcing Inc. (www.ruralsourcing.com), during the recruitment process to bring an RSI technology development center to Augusta. Through the stellar work of our economic development team headed up by Walter Sprouse and the Development Authority of Richmond County we were able to do just that with RSI's new offices in the historic Enterprise Mill opening a year ago this month. Since our initial meeting Monty and I have developed both a strong working relationship as RSI continues to grow right here in our community as well as a wonderful friendship. I hope Monty's words that follow help give everyone a strong insight into how our city's future is taking shape as well as why more and more businesses are choosing to call Augusta home.

“As with all economic defining historical events one simple truth emerges...there will be winners and there will be losers. Winners and losers will emerge at the individual level, the city level and at the state level. Augusta is positioning itself to emerge as one of those city-level winners.

As CEO for Rural Sourcing, Inc. I have the good fortune to travel all around the country talking to companies about the prospects of keeping jobs here in the US or bringing jobs back to the US that were once off shored. Our success in being able to compete for these projects and jobs is in large part due to the location of our technology development center in Augusta. By hiring exceptional local talent who are committed to their clients, committed to their technology careers and committed to the Augusta area we have a value proposition that is hard to beat.

RSI recently sponsored a technology competition during Westobou to display some of that local talent. We had seven teams representing the local and surrounding colleges to see who could build the best mobile visitor website for the city. In just 4 hours, we had seven teams all emerge with working mobile applications that could take visitors on a virtual tour of the city. To see the energy level and the talent on display was truly inspiring. This is just one of many examples that the city of Augusta is doing to position itself to be a truly great city of the future that offers a high quality of living, and tremendous economic opportunities for their citizens. In talking with other leaders at ADP and at Starbucks I know they share this sentiment about the possibilities that lie ahead for Augusta.

The city of Augusta is positioning itself by emerging from the recession with a vision to become a model for other cities to follow much like Austin, Texas did during the 1990's.”

I hope these words reflect for each of you how our city's vast potential is truly beginning to be unlocked on a daily basis with our best days yet to come. I would like to personally thank my friend Monty for sitting down to put this together as well as to thank each of you for your constant words of support and your belief in our great city!

Thanks,

Deke